

New York Tribune.

MONDAY, JUNE 2, 1913.

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Depends Upon the Point of View.

Governor Sulzer stoutly asserts that his state-wide primary campaign in this city has been successful. His Democratic opponents say that it has been a flat failure. To an impartial spectator it looks as if there was a good deal of truth in each statement, depending upon the point of view.

Mr. Sulzer congratulates himself that the audiences which he addressed were much impressed by his arguments. The anti-Sulzerites take satisfaction from the fact that Murphy and McCooey did not attend the Sulzer meetings and thus escaped conversion. So long as Murphy and McCooey stand fast their marionettes in the Senate and Assembly will vote against the Sulzer primary bill. The Governor's opponents are in a measure right in saying his campaign here failed because he could not reach the voting trust whose wishes are now recorded through rollcalls at Albany.

That trust may still rule at the extra session and the Sulzer primary bill may be defeated again. But there must be a reckoning at the polls after the Legislature adjourns. It is in rousing sentiment here which will be felt in that reckoning that the Governor is entitled to feel that he has met with more than moderate success.

The judge's answer is utterly inadequate. It clears up nothing. It is vague and general as to the nature of the services for which Connolly paid the \$4,000 which he subsequently demanded and received back. Justice Cohalan says that they were legal in their nature, yet he does not tell what they were. He denies that they consisted in using political influence in Connolly's behalf, stoutly asserting that he had at the time no political influence at all. Yet three years later, in 1909, his political position had grown to be so important, according to his own statement, that he paid back to his former client Connolly \$4,000 rather than face a suit for the return of perfectly legal fees, merely in order to avoid trouble in a political campaign. Connolly's charges might have wrecked Tammany's chances in 1909, says the justice. But how, if the relations of Connolly and Cohalan were simply those of lawyer and client?

The weakness of the judge's defence is the unexplained and unexplainable return of \$4,000. Lawyers are not in the habit of paying back fees properly earned in their clients' service. And the political exigency which Justice Cohalan conjures up as an explanation was not sufficient to explain a transaction which goes against human nature and common experience. Proper services are susceptible of an explanation such as will make the public understand their nature and perceive their propriety.

Justice Cohalan declares that he is a poor man. This makes it all the more remarkable that he was ready to pay back upon request so large a sum as \$4,000 when he had fairly earned it in the practice of his profession.

The justice speaks of having aided Mr. Connolly in obtaining \$40,000 or \$50,000 worth of city business. How did he aid him? This is the real issue.

The public will insist upon knowing precisely what means he employed to put this large amount of business in Connolly's way. And it will insist upon knowing precisely what the services were for which the justice was paid the \$4,000 which he so readily repaid.

The bench cannot rest under all the doubt and suspicion which this remarkable transaction arouses.

An Ungainly Post-Mortem.

The attack made by an investigating committee of Postoffice Department officials on ex-Postmaster General Hitchcock's administration looks decidedly ungracious and pettifogging. The report magnifies what it calls a straining of bookkeeping methods in order to show a postal surplus in 1910-'11 and a very small deficit in 1911-'12.

The country isn't much interested in the question whether there was according to one way of figuring a surplus of \$219,000 in 1910-'11 or according to another way a deficit of \$750,000. It is greatly interested in the much larger fact that when Mr. Hitchcock took hold of the department it was running behind more than \$17,000,000 a year and that under his management it soon became self-supporting, or nearly so.

If that was "sham economy" a good deal more of the same sort of economy will be welcome. If Mr. Burleson and his subordinates will turn to and in a year or so will show a postal surplus of \$15,000,000 or \$16,000,000 nobody will complain about bookkeeping inaccuracies which may be subsequently discovered amounting to less than \$1,000,000. It would have been disrester and much more helpful if the investigating committee had given Mr. Hitchcock credit for the great work which he did, and then pledged the department to go ahead along the same lines without regard to negligible bookkeeping technicalities.

Crowding the "Lobby" Into the Wings

It looks as if the tariff lobby quiz were going to push the Pujo "money trust" inquiry clear off the boards as a producer of "copy" for the Public Printer. The Pujoans were moderate in calling a few leading witnesses and getting their views on a single definite topic—whether, namely, credit and the control of capital were concentrated in a few hands to a dangerous extent. But the tariff lobby inquisitors have put to ninety-six Senators a series of questions which, if answered in the spirit in which they are asked, would compel many of the witnesses to file with the committee six or eight voluminous political autobiographies.

If every Senator is to be required to state whether or not he is financially interested in the production, manufacture or sale of any article mentioned in any bill considered since his term of service began, or is connected directly or indirectly with any person, firm, association, corporation or organization engaged in the production, manufacture or sale of any article named in the Underwood bill, where is the output of testimony to stop? Every Senator is financially interested, as a consumer at least, in most of the articles named in the many tariff bills which have been before Congress, and there are few Senators who have not been interested through investment or employment in the production, manufacture or sale of many articles named in the pending bill.

Moreover, if a Senator is to say whether he has sought to influence any other Senator as to the rates on those articles, must he repeat every conversation he has ever had and dig up and republish every speech he has ever made in the Senate bearing on tariff rates, and must he furnish his correspondence with every constituent or other citizen who has personally communicated with him in reference to rates in the pending measure?

It may be that all such data are desirable, however bulky the public documents which will have to be issued to contain them. Yet when the committee gets through the wood may not be visible be-

cause of the trees. The "lobby" may be lost sight of in the great mass of irrelevant revelations which will be unloaded on the Government Printing Office.

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The Dwindling Drink Habit.

The testimony in Colonel Roosevelt's libel suit is interesting for a variety of reasons. It is most interesting, perhaps, as a sign of the times—or the very great decline in drinking that has taken place throughout the country over.

One does not have to go back to Daniel Webster to find an era when not only drink but drunkenness was considered a decent and respectable practice. A popular hero in those wet days rather gained popularity through hard drinking than lost it. And a sort of admiration for the guzzler and contempt for the teetotaler persisted down to fairly recent times.

How the whole popular attitude has changed the Roosevelt case well illustrates. No sensible person is surprised that the colonel's abstemiousness is shown to be a fact. Rather there would have been the greatest amazement if, with all his extraordinary vitality and stamina, he had turned out to be a hard drinker. The damning, destroying effect of drinking to excess is now accepted as a commonplace. The drunkard is no longer a hero. He is an object of pity like every other weakling.

Of course, hard drinking still exists and crops out now and then in one quarter or another. But, taking the country through, there can be no question that here, as in England, both teetotalism and temperance have made enormous gains. The present conspicuous ease of Colonel Roosevelt, whose precise degree of temperance is not very far removed from the teetotalism of Mr. Bryan, is both a mark of progress and a shining example.

French Laws of the Air.

France, long conspicuously interested and efficient in aviation, takes the lead in efforts for the legal regulation of that practice in a measure which has been introduced into Parliament and is likely soon to be enacted.

This bill propounds the novel doctrine that proprietary rights on land do not extend to the air, at least not above the height of buildings, and that therefore aviators have a right to fly over any man's land. They are forbidden, however, to land on enclosed property near dwellings without permission, and they are made liable for all damages which may be shown to have committed, either by landing or in flight. All private aircraft must be licensed and must display conspicuously their license numbers. The carrying of explosives, arms, ammunition, photographic apparatus, wireless telegraph and telephone apparatus and carrier pigeons is prohibited without special license.

These provisions are likely to be widely considered as providing a possible model for legislation elsewhere. It is certain that some such legislation will be necessary in all civilized nations. It will be interesting to observe the action of other countries upon the denial of landowners' rights in the air above their land.

An Underwood Bill Blunder Which Particularly Affects This City.

It is reported from Washington that Democratic members of the Senate Finance Committee are inclined to concede the unreasonableness of the discrimination in the income tax section of the Underwood tariff bill against corporations whose bond issues exceed in amount their capital stock. The bill as it passed the House of Representatives did not allow interest paid on bonds in excess of capital stock to be deducted from a corporation's gross income, although such interest payments clearly represent debt and not profits.

The framers of the income tax section inserted in it bodily the excise corporation tax provisions of the Payne tariff law without realizing that the reasons for not allowing the exemption of interest paid on bonded debt in the case of corporations subject to the excise tax would no longer hold after a general income tax had been imposed. So long as a tax could not be collected on income derived from bonds the government was anxious to discourage corporations from increasing their bond issues and keeping their stock capitalization abnormally low. But now that all kinds of income are taxable it is unnecessary to hold such a club over the corporations. It is unfair and absurd to allow one corporation to deduct interest on its debts while compelling another to consider such outlay as profit and pay taxes upon it.

New York City is especially interested in the rectification of the blunder made by the House of Representatives. The corporations which are going to operate the subway extensions will have bonded debts greatly in excess of their capitalization. If they are compelled to pay taxes on most of the interest which they pay out to bondholders the city will be the loser by just that amount, since that charge will be added to those charges which already take precedence before the municipality can come in for a share of the profits on subway operation.

Correcting the House's oversight will therefore be in an especial sense an act of justice to the people of New York.

A Kansas City judge has ruled in a breach of promise suit that engaged young women need not confine their attentions to the young men to whom they are engaged. Evidently the law follows the facts in Missouri.

Another demand is made in Congress for the taking of steps tending definitely in the direction of Philippine independence. The most definite, practical, beneficent and expeditious steps that can be taken in that direction are those which we have

in mind.

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DIPLOMA-CY.



THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate

been taking for nearly fifteen years in pacifying and civilizing the islands and giving them experience in self-government.

It is now up to the scientists to tell us whether milk or grape juice is better.

Carnegie's Double in a Fight—Headline.

Why not a Carnegie institution to teach doubles a sense of their responsibilities?

Secretary Redfield is still making speeches about efficiency in industry, but is discreetly cutting out all references to making producers efficient with the aid of a black list and a stuffed club.

AS I WAS SAYING

Where to stable its Editor is the problem of many a newspaper, and we are not surprised that Brother Fitch should have called attention to it afresh.

Naturally, a newspaper yearns to place its Editor in the front window, where he will show off. Crushing empires, overturning philosophies, wrecking sciences, demolishing age-long errors and forging humanity's future, all without letting his pipe go out, he would be very nearly as hypnotic an attraction as the white-capped genius who spills those enchanting, creamy puddles of batter on the hot, hot iron.

Long may he search for the crisp and toothsome white radish, over which, according to his own testimony, he is "just going crazy." Long may he abandon his competent subordinate, Professor Moore, the care and duties of the State Department, for which he is fitted neither by character, training nor experience.

The capacity required to interpret the meaning of disputed treaties is quite different from that which enables a man to swing a market basket with grace and distinction.

If a nation employs shirt sleeves diplomacy in diplomatic affairs it is always liable to become the laughing stock of world powers, whereas shirt sleeves in peaceful pursuits are eminently respectable and to be respected.

A health in grape juice to the white radish!

MARTIN.

New York, May 31, 1913.

BRYAN'S TRUE SPHERE

The Grape and White Radish Should Receive His Whole Attention.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: How idle is the picture which The Tribune portrays for us of Mr. Bryan, the man who elects our President and dictates the platform upon which he stands, devoting himself to the simple pursuit of marketing for the family!

Long may he search for the crisp and toothsome white radish, over which, according to his own testimony, he is "just going crazy." Long may he abandon his competent subordinate, Professor Moore, the care and duties of the State Department, for which he is fitted neither by character, training nor experience.

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THE DEADLY LIQUOR TRAFFIC

A Reader Points to the Terrible Waste and Destruction It Works.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: A few days ago I read in The Tribune of a longshoreman who killed his father and wounded his brother while he was drunk. To-day a "magazine man is fatally stabbed" and your report says the man who stabbed him had "according to his fellow workers been drinking heavily."

It is commonly said that the man who drinks is his own enemy. How does such a saying square with the facts reported in The Tribune and with many other like facts daily reported by the press?

Is it not time that the traffic that makes havoc of our hearts and homes be called to account?

Scientific investigation has proved alcohol to be a poison. In the name of common sense why should any poison that excites passion and leads to murder be permitted to be sold to any one who had the money to pay for it?

We do not allow the milkman to sell milk that endangers life. The butcher cannot sell us decayed meat. We are not after the baker if he puts alum in his bread. But we allow "blends" of whiskey and brandy to be sold to the gilded youth and the tarnished old. We permit a chemically beered beer that rots the coating of the stomach to be sold over the counter of the bar. If there was a pure drink law and all adulterated liquors were turned into the gutter the streets of New York would be ankle deep. Why do we allow it? I know the answer. There's money in it for the brewer, distiller and the saloonkeeper; and there's graft in it for the dirty politicians and the man higher up. Let the good work go on—sell the stuff that steals men's brains and makes a man a little lower than the beast. There's money in it, and we value money more than we value men. If the economic waste, the physical deterioration, the loss of character, the destruction of the soul could be estimated and set forth in telling figures people would be amazed and confused by the fearful waste.

And now on top of this precarious situation we are to have a tariff law that will drain our bank reserves of at least \$100,000,000 more and contract credits by \$300,000,000. The worst of it is that this drain will be heaviest in the first few months and will come at the most inconvenient time. Anticipating a change, importers have been holding off to get the benefit of lower duties; hence we may expect a rush of imports at the start, and if, as is now expected, the law is in operation by August 1 then the foreign demand for gold to pay for the imports will be heaviest in the crop season, when banks are already being subjected to the severest strain of the year.

Under these circumstances the new tariff law is almost certain to cause serious financial and commercial disaster. Every great panic in our history was precipitated by gold exports, and in 1857, 1857, 1893 and 1893 the outflow was due to increased imports of foreign goods. Are the banks any better prepared to stand the extra strain this year?

I am sure the great majority of your readers are with you on the side of

the liquor traffic?

The Tribune, which I have read for forty years, has often spoken true and timely words against the evils of the traffic.

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